

REMARKS

The Office Action

The Office states that “the reply filed on June 6, 2003 in Paper No. 14 is not fully responsive to the prior Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed March 6, 2003” because the Amendment to the Abstract was not submitted on a separate sheet of paper. Applicants have not received a Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed March 6, 2003. Applicants’ attorney telephoned Examiner Lacourciere concerning this on September 5, 2003, and was informed that the Office Action should instead have referred to the May 23, 2003 Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment. The Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed May 23, 2003 did not state that the Amendment to the Abstract was not in compliance with the Revised Amendment Practice in the Pre-OG Notice dated January 31, 2003 and MPEP § 608.01(b). Rather, the Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment mailed May 23, 2003 called for Applicants to submit an Oath or Declaration. Applicants responded to the Notice on June 6, 2003, by providing Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney forms, which were signed by all applicants.

Discussion of Amendment to the Abstract

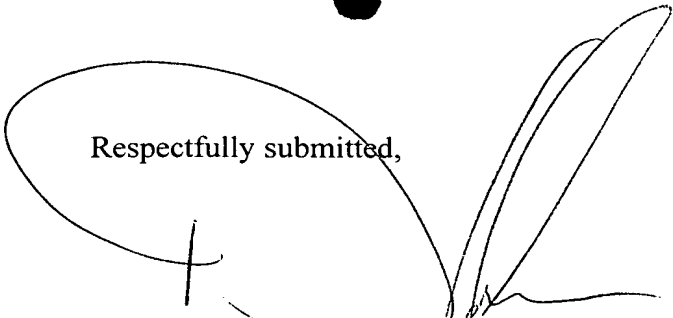
The abstract is amended to comply with the Sequence Rules by referring to the recited sequence as SEQ ID NO:1. It also is amended to correct a grammatical error.

It is believed that the present amendment to the Abstract is proper and that the application, as amended, complies with the Sequence Rules. As requested in the Office Action, in addition to directing the amendment of the Abstract, as indicated above, a clean copy of the Abstract, on a separate sheet of paper, is enclosed.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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